VZCZCXRO7697 PP RUEHDE RUEHDIR DE RUEHKU #0170 0361011 ZNR UUUUU ZZH P 051011Z FEB 07 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8213 INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY RUEHMV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY 0025 RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000170

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR NEA/ARP, EB/IFD/ODF - EMILY WAECHTER, AF/W - PETE DAVIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>EAID ECON EFIN LI PREL KU</u>
SUBJECT: KUWAIT MFA "UNAWARE" OF LIBERIA PARTNERS' FORUM

REF: A. STATE 13309

¶B. STATE 9925

¶C. 06 STATE 201818

- 11. (SBU) On February 4, Econoff met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Director for Africa and Asia Ambassador Mohammed Al-Bader to discuss the scope and purpose of the upcoming Liberia Partners' Forum (reftels) and to encourage high-level Kuwaiti attendance at the conference in Washington on February 13-14. Post informed the MFA of the event via diplomatic note on December 27, but Al-Bader maintained that he was unaware of it. He also asked why the U.S. has chosen not to pay off Liberia's arrears but seemed satisfied with Econoff's outline of U.S. contributions to Liberia to date (ref B). Post later contacted MFA's International Organizations Department and MFA's Economic Affairs Department, neither of which claimed any knowledge of the Forum.
- 12. (SBU) Given the apparent lack of focus on Liberia within the GOK, the Department may wish to reinforce our demarches with the Kuwait Embassy in Washington. Post will report any subsequent discussions with the GOK septel.

*********** For more Embassy Kuwait reporting, see:

http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/kuwait/index.cfm?cables

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